

done by the other in the last week. They saw whether or not any member of the pool had tried to cheat.

There were bitter quarrels between the millionaire packers at some of these meetings. There were accusations of double dealing passed across the table with bitter wrangling until far into the night.

Once the feud became so bitter that the pool was disbanded, and was out of existence for two years.

After the last week's business had been discussed the packers settled by ballot on the apportionment of business for the coming week.

That ballot decided just how much beef each concern could buy, how much it could sell in each city of the United States, and how much profit it could make from the sales.

Tuesday night, Henry Veeder mailed to the managers of the six members of the combine, two reports.

The first was a resume of the last week's business of each concern. It showed the profit or loss of the last week's business of each concern, and it fixed the fines for violations of the pooling contract during the previous week.

The fine was 40 cents a hundredweight for each car of beef sold in violation of the contract.

The second statement Veeder mailed related to the business of the next week. It told the managers how many shipments they

could send off, and how much to each city.

These second letters read something like this:

At today's meeting it was determined that the shipments for the next week will be 80 per cent and the amounts to be shipped into territory A will be as follows: A (for Armour), so many pounds, F (for Swift), so many pounds, and so on until each concern and every part of the United States had been covered.

These letters never were signed. They were mailed in plain envelopes, marked **personal** in huge letters with a rubber stamp.

All answers to them, and all reports received by Veeder were addressed to "P. O. Box 247," and were written on plain paper and without a signature.

There were no names, no addresses, no identifying marks of any sort about any of the correspondence concerning the pool, or its arrangements for apportioning of business.

The pool was a hidden thing, and had a secret service man come into possession of a letter written after one of the stormy meetings of the millionaires, he would not have been able to make head nor tail of the letter.

Veeder told how this arrangement lasted from 1893 to 1896, when it was terminated through the open breaking out of one of the feuds between the parties to the pool, that always were smoldering underneath the surface. In 1898 the pool came into existence again.